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is found among those farmers who have organized into co-operative societies, and the author is convinced that the time will soon come when each of the principal divisions of agriculture will have its own national organization to look after its special interests.

The table of contents calls for an index, but the latter is lacking. This is a defect which should be corrected in any future editions of this useful little volume which contains so much valuable information, not only for young farmers, but for intelligent readers in general who wish to keep in touch with the forces which are making for the uplift of agriculture and its dependent industries.

JAMES B. MORMAN.

Kensington, Md.

Dawbarn, C. *France and the French.* Pp. xi, 322. Price, \$2.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1911.

Books about France are seldom unreadable whether they describe the *ancien régime* or the present-day life of the boulevards. This is no exception. The author has lived long enough in France to speak not as a Frenchman, but as a well-seasoned resident. What one sees and hears in contemporaneous French life is the burden of the book—it is not serious, at least it is not heavy; it aims to give the sort of picture of French life which is found for America in the articles of our better "staff correspondents." Each chapter is a photograph or a series of moving pictures, of the subject with which it deals. The chief object is to entertain rather than to instruct by tracing development.

The first third of the book sketches the new influences that have come into French life since the establishment of the Third Republic. Enthusiasm for democracy has made the French prosaic, the presidency though still surrounded with formality, has not the real glamour of the Empire and the same contrast follows through all phases of French life. Thrift makes the nation self contented, peace loving, and adjustment to his home surroundings keeps Jacques untouched by martial or political ambition and only mildly interested in colonial expansion.

Parties are atomic or personal, the groupings extend to the chambers and only in a very secondary manner to the electorate. Society is divided into the old families who look with suspicion on politics—unless it be diplomacy, the smug middle class, who control the government and the peasants who give it but small attention. Toward Paris the ambitions of every Frenchman lead. He does not, like the Englishman, live in the country to make an impress upon it, but to amass enough to enable him to retire to the capital. Two interesting chapters on French foreign relations and colonies close this division of the book.

The later chapters deal with the cultural interests of France, her architecture, her education, the stage, literature, the press and the problem of the

position of woman. As a picture of what is going on in France, this book will be welcome to a wide circle of readers.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Wisconsin.

Dodd, Agnes F. *History of Money in the British Empire and the United States.* Pp. xiv, 356. Price, \$1.60. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911.

The excuse for writing this book is to supply in compact and convenient form for students and general readers the essential facts and the more important lines of development that have been involved in the process of securing an adequate currency in English-speaking countries. There is no pretense at original treatment. Secondary sources are freely used. The manner of presentation is clear and interesting. One-half of the space is devoted to England, one-third to America, and the remainder to parts of the British Empire other than England.

Several early chapters deal with English coinage in law and in practice from the earliest times to the final and permanent adoption of the gold standard by the act of 1816. Bimetallism was introduced in the thirteenth century and experience through five centuries affords convincing proof that many ills relating to currency and industry were due to the impossibility of operating satisfactorily a bimetallic system. Incessant variation of the mint ratio between gold and silver and frequent debasement of coins by act of sovereign power were due either to ignorance of monetary principles or to a desire to improve the currency, and not, with few exceptions, to a scheme for increasing the revenues of the king. In this struggle to maintain a currency supply, the part played by the mercantile theory and by changes in price-levels are also given due prominence. The chapters on the development of banking in England deal largely with note issues. Such topics as the banking functions performed by goldsmiths, price-levels, crises, Peel's Act of 1844, the problem of an adequate bank reserve, are well handled.

The American account is executed in the same elementary, yet clear and pleasing manner which characterizes that of the British. The struggle of the colonists to secure an efficient medium and standard, the paper money experiments of the Revolutionary and the Civil War periods, wild-cat banking, the silver controversy, and note-issue under the National Banking System are passed in review. Since several brief histories of American experience are available, this part of the volume does not meet a real need.

The book is not free from errors. Among them are: The bold statement of Gresham's law (*e. g.* p. 23), which makes it untrue; the overworking of the principle of compensatory action in a bimetallic system whereby not only one but both of the precious metals are caused simultaneously, it is claimed, to flow into England (p. 52); the assertion (p. 260) that the decimal system was not in use in the American monetary system until after the Civil War; several minor errors, chiefly relating to dates, in the pages on the greenbacks. There are over one hundred direct quotations, but, in amateurish